

EMBASSY BUILDING

PROJECT: European embassy building, Belgravia, London

CLIENT: Kier Construction/Byford Roofing

SCOPE OF PROJECT: Enhance natural light and comfort

PRODUCTS: em.glaze bespoke



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Sympathetic refurbishment bathes stunning Georgian townhouse in natural light

THE CHALLENGE

Belgravia in London features some stunning examples of Georgian architecture. One town house, now a European embassy building, was in need of attention.

The embassy featured original skylights, now almost 200 years old. They spilled little natural light into the space below, but the amount of glass magnified the sun's heat and sent the interior temperatures soaring.

A priority for refurbishment to any historic building is that additions and replacements must be sympathetic to the existing architecture. Equally, the objective behind the works was to increase interior comfort levels dramatically, as well as improving natural light.

THE SOLUTION

Whitesales specified two em.glaze bespoke rooflights – an oval ridgelight and a rectangular rooflight – to replicate the originals exactly. The aluminium frames were polyester powder coated to a RAL colour, and double glazed units featured 6mm toughened outer panes, 16mm argon-filled cavity, and 6mm toughened 'low E' inner panes.

Both em.glaze rooflights were custom-built and delivered to site on schedule. Manoeuvring in tightly constrained access and working spaces, our team installed the prefabricated units in place, working around the chandelier hanging below one of the rooflights.

Double-glazed, high-security and non-fragile, the new installations provide the embassy with thermal and sound insulation that exceeds building regulations. The internal temperature is easier to manage, thanks to a high-performance solar control coating. This allows maximum light transmission, flooding the interior with daylight, but cuts the g-value to reduce solar heat gain and ensure occupant comfort.

THE BENEFITS

- A historically sympathetic replacement, in keeping with the 200-year-old Georgian architecture
- Both rooflights were custom-built offsite, reducing disruption
- The enhanced daylighting and superior thermal insulation reduce carbon footprint, electricity usage and heating costs, and improves interior occupant comfort

